
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN NOVEMBER 1997

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in November 1997 decreased about 4% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized production thus far in 1997 was calculated to be 45.7 million metric tons, which was slightly higher than the total 1996 production of 45.4 million tons (table 3).

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for November, decreased 6% compared to the prior month, to about 3.3 million tons. Annualized sales or use thus far in 1997 was calculated to be 41.6 million tons or 4% lower than the total for 1996 (table 3).

U.S. producer ending stocks for November were 2% lower than the figure shown in October. In the Florida-North Carolina

region, stocks were almost 3% lower, while in the Idaho-Utah region, stocks were 3% higher than the previous month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census; total U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 150,000 tons per month, or 1.8 million tons per year. November import data were not available at the time of publication.

Annualized domestic consumption for 1997 was calculated to be 43.4 million tons using annualized sold and used data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 1996, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, was 43.7 million tons, compared with 42.6 million tons in 1995.

TABLE 1
UNITED STATES PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
United States:			
1996 total	43,800	42,100	6,380
Jan.- Nov. 1996	39,400	40,000	XX
1996:			
November	3,520	3,580	6,330
December	3,620	3,450	6,380
1997:			
January	3,820	3,320	6,750
February	3,600	3,150	7,170
March	3,910	3,560	7,570
April	3,970	3,410	7,920
May	4,110	3,790	7,970
June	3,830	3,500	8,130
July	3,690	3,330	8,270
August	3,900	3,510	8,490
September	3,810	3,600	8,560
October	3,670	3,570	8,450
November	3,540	3,340	8,320
Year to date	41,800	38,100	XX
Florida and North Carolina:			
1996 total	37,800	36,300	4,690
Jan.- Nov. 1996	34,200	33,500	XX
1996:			
November	3,280	3,150	4,600
December	3,290	3,080	4,690
1997:			
January	3,440	2,930	5,080
February	3,170	2,820	5,390
March	3,460	3,160	5,730
April	3,460	2,960	6,180
May	3,460	3,230	6,370
June	3,130	3,040	6,520
July	2,950	2,820	6,680
August	3,150	2,920	6,920
September	2,950	3,040	6,860
October	2,900	3,130	6,610
November	2,830	2,960	6,430
Year to date	34,900	33,100	XX
Idaho and Utah:			
1996 total	5,980	5,830	1,690
Jan.- Nov. 1996	5,330	5,640	XX
1996:			
November	241	427	1,730
December	334	376	1,690
1997:			
January	376	392	1,670
February	433	326	1,780
March	455	395	1,840
April	515	447	1,740
May	650	561	1,600
June	698	463	1,610
July	735	518	1,590
August	750	589	1,570
September	859	558	1,700
October	771	436	1,840
November	705	379	1,890
Year to date	6,950	5,060	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Imports	
	Quantity	Value
1996 total e/	1,800	104,000
Jan.-Oct. 1996	436	25,300
1996:		
November	66	3,780
December	67	3,850
1997:		
January	101	4,310
February	(3/)	23
March	67	3,800
April	58	3,150
May	60	3,240
June	68	4,160
July	62	3,790
August	62	3,800
September	67	4,090
October	112	3,360
Year to date	657	33,800

e/ Estimated.

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco are suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons per year and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	1994	1995	1996	1997
United States:				
Marketable production:				
Florida and North Carolina	34.0	38.0	39.2	38.1
Idaho and Utah	7.1	5.5	6.2	7.6
Total 1/	41.1	43.5	45.4	45.7
Sold or used by producers: 2/				
Florida and North Carolina	38.0	38.1	38.1	36.1
Idaho and Utah	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.5
Total 1/	43.9	43.7	43.5	41.6
Yearend stocks	6.0	5.7	6.4	XX
Exports	2.8	2.9	W	W
Average value per ton	\$25.60	\$29.35	\$35.82	\$33.84
Imports for consumption	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/
Average value per ton	\$48.76	\$51.01	57.91	XX
Apparent consumption 3/	42.9 e/	42.6 e/	43.7 e/	43.4 e/

e/ Estimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Includes exports reported by producers.

3/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports, where imports are estimated to average about 150,000 tons per month (and though the average monthly estimate may appreciably exceed any one month's reported imports).